

ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

By this Amendment, two minor corrections have been made in the specification. In the claims, independent claim 12 has been amended for clarity and to better define the invention. Dependent claim 16 has also been amended consistent with the changes to independent claim 12. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

In the *Specification* section of the Detailed Action, the examiner noted the preferred layout of a US specification, and then requested that applicant add headings at appropriate locations. However, as the present specification does have the suggested layout, though without headings whose placement would be obvious, and in view of the burdensome manner now required to add headings, applicant declines to add the "suggested" headings. It will be noted that applicant has made two minor corrections of a self-evident nature to the specification.

In the *Claim Objections and Claim Rejections -35 USC § 112* sections of the Action, claim 12 was objected to and rejected for two minor problems. By this Amendment, the two noted problems, as well as others of a similar nature, have been corrected in claim 12 in a self-evident manner.

In the *Claims Rejection - 35 USC § 102* section, independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13-14 were rejected as being anticipated by the Hirvonen patent; while in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section, dependent claims 15-18 and independent

claim 19 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. This indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

By this Amendment, independent claim 12 has been amended to claim a gas passage in a similar manner as allowable dependent claim 16, but without the limitation that the gas passage be present in the lid (as still claimed in dependent claim 16). The presence of a gas passage and the advantages afforded thereby (ensuring uniform cooling of the drill surfaces and significantly reducing the overall cycle time) are neither disclosed nor made obvious by the Hirvonen patent – as specifically noted by the examiner in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section. In particular, the Hirvonen patent does not disclose any gas passage as claimed.

Thus, the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 16 has been inserted into claim 12 to make it, and the remaining claims dependent therefrom, allowable over the Hirvonen patent. Further, independent claim 19 is already indicated as being allowable, so that all claims now pending are allowable.

The remaining references which were cited but not applied have been reviewed but are not believed to be pertinent to the patentability of the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.